

Communications/Utilities
Committee Meeting
March 7, 2014

Committee Chairperson Sonja Culler called the meeting to order after the adjournment of The Landfill Committee meeting.

- Committee Members present: Chairperson Sonja Culler, Mr. W. Patrick Hicks, Carter County Legislative Chairman Tom Bowers (filling in for Mr. Steve Lowrance), Mr. John Lewis, Mr. Joel Street, Mrs. Bobbie Dietz, Mr. Buford Peters, and Charles Von Cannon, recording Secretary.
- Chairperson Culler called for and gained approval for wording of the minutes Of the previous meeting which was conducted on February 7, 2014. Chairperson Culler discussed the prior meeting which saw the Utilities Committee vote against the proposed increase to \$300.00 per meeting for Board members of the Watauga River Regional Water Authority. Mr. Byron Trantham had returned in an effort to convince the committee that as he stated "it would be easier to recruit good people, if the stipend was in keeping with what other utilities in Carter County are paying their board members".
- Many questions were asked of Mr. Trantham (see attached letter to the newspaper from Mr. Trantham)—This letter answers most of the questions.
- Water rates between Carter County utility districts was discussed. Mr. Trantham pointed out that water from WRRWA is sold to each participating utility district at the same rate. County chairman Tom Bowers is of the opinion that water should be available to all county residents at the same rate.
- Commissioner Street asked several questions. Mr. Trantham asked him to present his questions in writing.
- Committee member Von Cannon asked Mr. Trantham about the missing funds recovery effort. Mr. Trantham indicated that a court ordered settlement required a payment of \$500.00 per month for 49 years.
***The missing funds DID NOT occur during Mr. Tranthams' job tenure.
- Mr. John Lewis motioned that the stipend remain at the present rate—a second by Von cannon—the vote was unanimous to leave the per meeting compensation as is.
- The secretary has attached an informative letter from Mr. Trantham to the minutes.
- Other business: Mr. Lewis and Mr. Street talked about their experiences with the county cable provider. It took months for Mr. Street to get a downed cable from the roof of a barn.

When Mr. Hicks was Communications Chairman, he was able to acquire a I-800 number.

At this time the state had basically taken control of county cable service.

All discussion was concluded—Mrs. Dietz made the motion to adjourn—a second from Mr. Bowers—All ayes

Respectfully Submitted

Charles A. Von Cannon